

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1956

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 3746

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: LUNS' VISIT TO COPENHAGEN

REF: COPENHAGEN 3737

SUMMARY: NATO SEC GEN PRAISED DANISH DEFENSE POLICY
DURING VISIT TO COPENHAGEN END SUMMARY.

1. JOSEPH LUNS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO AND FORMER DUTCH
FOREIGN MINISTER, PUBLICLY PRAISED DANISH DEFENSE POLICIES
WHEN VISITING COPENHAGEN YESTERDAY (DECEMBER 16) ON THE
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OCCASION OF THE 25TH MEETING OF THE DANISH ATLANTIC PACT

SOCIETY. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, FOLLOWING LUNCHEON (SEE REFTEL), HE SAID DENMARK HAS PURSUED A SENSIBLE DEFENSE POLICY OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS.EVEN IF THE SHARE OF THE GNP TAKEN UP BY THE DANISH DEFENSE BUDGET IS LESS THAN THE AVERAGE FOR EUROPE, THE STABILITY OF THE BUDGET IS VERY IMPORTANT . BECAUSE OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT DENMARK HAS AVOIDED THE UPS AND DOWNS IN DEFENSE SPENDING WHICH OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE EXPERINECE.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH ONE DESCRIPTION OF THE LARGE SOVIET NAVAL FORCES IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC, LUNS SAID THAT THE DEFENSE OF GREENLAND WILL HAVE INCREASING IMPORTANCE AND THAT THE NEW DANISH CORVETTES, WHICH HE CALLED "FRIGATES, COULD FULFILL THIS MISSION IN THE STRAIT BETWEEN GREENLAND AND ICELAND.
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